

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of

SHIGEHIRO MASUJI and
HIDEKI AIBA

Serial No. 09/655,682

Filed September 6, 2000

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Norman J. Payerle
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

37 CFR §§ 1.97, 1.98

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Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants hereby submit the following in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR §1.56.

Information or art known to the Applicants and having an extent of relevance to the present application has been listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto. It includes four Japanese Publications. The Applicants have employed Form PTO-1449 for the purposes of convenience of the Office and the Examiner.

No representation is made that a specific search has been made, that the information is pertinent to the claimed subject matter, that the information is non-cumulative, or that the information represents the only or the best information. The Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention but rather that it is information of which they are aware and that they believe should be provided to the Office in fulfillment of their duty of disclosure. Any question that may arise regarding priority of a specific reference shall be resolved during prosecution.

It is the position of the Applicants that none of the art provided herein accomplishes the objects of the present invention. The Applicants believe that the claims of the subject application are patentably distinct over the art of record. In the event the Examiner would care to discuss any of the foregoing more specifically, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward G. Greive

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